

Message Text

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72

ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SY-05 USSS-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /027 W

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P 171920Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIRITY 8418

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CARACAS 4098

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A)

SUBJ: SECVISIT - ADMINISTRATIVE/LOGISTICS - SECRETARY'S CAR

REF: A. STATE 084346 B. STATE 085750

1. FOREIGN MINISTER ESCOVAR SALOM HAD MENTIONED AT TIME OF LUERS' VISIT THAT IN HIS PERSONAL VIEW TRANSPORTATION OF LIMOUSINE TO CARACAS FOR PURPOSE OF SECRETARY'S VISIT WAS UNNECESSARY IN VIEW OF LOCAL AVAILABILITY OF ARMORED LIMOUSINES. IN ADDITION, HE BELIEVED THAT IMPORTATION OF SUCH A VEHICLE WOULD LEAVE SECRETARY OPEN TO ADVERSE POLITICALLY INSPIRED COMMENTARY. HE WAS QUICK TO POINT OUT, HOWEVER, THAT IF WE BELIEVED USE OF OUR OWN VEHICLE FOR THE VISIT WAS NECESSARY, THAT HE WOULD INTERPOSE NO OBJECTION.

2. IN MEETING LAST NIGHT (APRIL 16), DIRECTOR GENERAL RAPHAEL EXPRESSED SIMILAR VIEWS. WE SUGGESTED THAT ORDINARY VENEZUELAN LICENSE PLATES COULD BE AFFIXED TO OUR VEHICLE UPON ARRIVAL, AS WAS DONE DURING VISIT OF MRS. NIXON. HE APPEARED TO FIND THIS PROCEDURE COMFORTING, ALTHOUGH HE WAS STILL CONCERNED ABOUT THE SPECTACLE PROVIDED BY THE ARRIVAL AND UNLOADING OF THE VEHICLE.

3. THIS MAY NOT BE AN INSURMOUNTABLE PROBLEM SINCE WE UNDERSTAND THAT IN ANY CASE THE PLANE TRANSPORTING VEHICLE WOULD HAVE TO LAND AND UNLOAD AT MARACAY AIRPORT (WE ARE CONFIRMING THIS ADVICE), WITH APPROXIMATELY A TWO-HOUR DRIVE TO MAIQUETIA. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, HOWEVER, IT OULD

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BE NECESSARY TO TRANSPORT CAR TO VENEZUELA ON DAY PRIOR

TO VISIT AND NO LATER THAN MORNING OF THE VISIT.

4. IN SUM, WE BELIEVE THAT GOV WOULD BE UNCOMFORTABLE WITH
USE OF OUR OWN VEHICLE BUT WOULD BE WILLING TO AGREE IF WE
INSISTED.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CARACA04098
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750135-0294
From: CARACAS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750439/aaaabkff.tel
Line Count: 67
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 084346, 75 STATE 085750
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 SEP 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <23 SEP 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECVISIT - ADMINISTRATIVE/LOGISTICS - SECRETARY'S CAR
TAGS: OVIP, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006